

## ***FISH and WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET***

**Meeting Date:** June 7, 2017

**Agenda Item:** 2017 Bison Quotas

**Division:** Wildlife

**Action Needed:** Final

**Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation:** 10 Min

---

### **Background**

The Commission annually approves bison license quotas. FWP is proposing no changes to the 2016-17 quotas. Current quotas are:

#### **----- HD 385 - Gardiner Basin and Absaroka Beartooth Areas -----**

##### **385-20: 40 licenses**

- Nov 15 - Feb 15 – Either Sex.

##### **385-21: 5 licenses. Only valid in the Absaroka Beartooth portion of the HD.**

##### **385-77: Bison Hunt Roster**

- Nov 15 - Feb 15 – Second Choice only license.

#### **----- HD 395 - West Yellowstone and Cabin Creek Monument Mountain Areas -----**

##### **395-20: 40 licenses**

- Nov 15 - Feb 15 – Either Sex

##### **395-77: Bison Hunt Roster**

- Nov 15 - Feb 15 – Second Choice only license.

During the 2016 season the 85 licensed hunters in Montana took 70 bison, including three of the five 385-21 backcountry wilderness licenses. In addition, Native American hunters from five tribes took 398 bison under aboriginal treaty rights. Fish, Wildlife and Parks has no authority over aboriginal treaty right hunting. A summary of the 2016 season harvest is included in the Commission packet.

As per state statute that was reauthorized this year, FWP must issue two wild buffalo licenses to each of seven Native American tribes for traditional purposes if requested. None were issued in 2016 because the legislation had lapsed, but tribes could take advantage of the opportunity this year. In the past we have typically issued about half of the number available.

### **Public Involvement Process & Results**

Public comment will be taken at this meeting.

### **Alternatives and Analysis**

Proposals may be adopted as proposed, with adjustment, or no change from 2016 as per staff recommendation, public comment and Commission discussion.

### **Agency Recommendation & Rationale**

FWP recommends approval of the 2017 bison quotas of no change from 2016.

### **Proposed Motion**

I move the Fish and Wildlife Commission approve the 2017 bison quotas of no change from 2016 as proposed by FWP.